



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Vernal Field Office

170 South 500 East

Vernal, UT 84078

(435) 781-4400 Fax: (435) 781-4410

<http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/vernal/planning.html>



December 4, 2008

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1790

LLUTG01000

UT-080-07-772

Dear Public Land User:

The River Bend Unit Field Development Environmental Analysis (EA) is hereby submitted for your review and comment. Public comments will be accepted through close of business on January 6, 2009. The EA was prepared to analyze the potential impacts of XTO Energy's field development proposal. The River Bend Unit project involves approximately 16,719 acres including parts of Township 9 South, Range 19 East; Township 10 South, Range 19 East; and Township 10 South, Range 20 East; Salt Lake Meridian, Uintah County, Utah, about 6 miles southwest of Ouray, Uintah County, Utah. This EA analyzes three alternatives in detail.

The No Action Alternative includes 128 wells, which were previously approved, and the construction of 15.7 miles of co-located road, gas lines, and produced water lines. The No Action Alternative would authorize up to 332 acres of surface disturbance.

The Proposed Action includes up to 378 natural gas wells, which would be directionally drilled from 169 existing well pads (existing well pads would be expanded by 0.5 acre per well); up to 74 vertically drilled wells and up to 32 directionally drilled wells from 74 new well pads; approximately 15.7 miles of new co-located road, gas lines, and produced water lines; up to 120 miles of buried gas lines; construction of one new compressor engine, and expansion of eight existing compressor engines to increase estimated compression across the field to 103,500 horsepower and dehydration to 450 million cubic feet per day (MMcfd) (i.e., 50 MMcfd per station). The Proposed Action Alternative would authorize approximately 1,103 acres of surface disturbance. Of this total, approximately 71 percent (786 acres) would be expansion of existing disturbance (i.e., existing well pad expansion, replacement of existing gas lines, expanded compressor stations).

The Surface Pipeline Alternative would be identical to the Proposed Action except all proposed gas lines would be placed on the surface. Development would still include the construction of necessary infra-structure to directionally and vertically drill 484 wells. The Surface Pipelines Alternative would authorize approximately 745 acres of surface disturbance.

The EA was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as well as other regulations and statutes, to address possible environmental and socio-economic impacts which could result from implementation of the project. This EA is not a decision document. Its

purpose is to inform the public and the decision maker of the impacts associated with implementing the proponent's exploratory drilling proposal, to evaluate alternatives to the proposal, and to solicit other agencies and the public for comments. A Record of Decision would be signed following the 30-day comment period and after consideration of any public comments.

If you wish to submit comments, please make them as specific as possible, with references to chapters and page numbers of the document. The most useful comments will contain new technical or scientific information, identify data gaps in the impact analysis, or will provide technical or scientific rationale for opinions or preferences. Please refer to "River Bend Unit EA" in your correspondence. Written comments will be accepted by fax, email, or letter for 30-days through close of business on January 6, 2009. Please provide your comments to:

Bureau of Land Management
Attn: Stephanie Howard
170 South 500 East
Vernal, Utah 84078
Fax: 435-781-4410
UT_Vernal_Comments@blm.gov

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents will be available for public review at the BLM Vernal Field Office from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. Comments may be published as part of the NEPA document and other related documents. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. For further information concerning the document, please contact Stephanie Howard at (435) 781-4469.

Sincerely,



William Stringer
Vernal Field Office Manager